

NEWS RELEASE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE Office of the Spokesman

For Immediate Release

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STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY

Congratulations to President-Elect Aquino of the Philippines

I join President Obama in congratulating President-elect Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, whom the Filipino people have chosen to lead their nation. The Philippines' successful election exemplified the vitality of the country's democratic institutions and should be a point of pride for Filipinos everywhere. The Filipino people now look to President-elect Aquino to carry forward the democratic traditions that his parents did so much to champion. The United States has long stood with the Philippines as a trusted ally and friend and we will continue to support the ongoing efforts of the Filipino people to build a secure and prosperous country.

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